THE CAMPIEST OF THEM ALL

JULIA ROBERTS SENDS UP HER ROLE AS THE EVIL QUEEN IN MIRROR, MIRROR PAGE 9

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NOT GUILTY

Mark Stobbe addresses the media outside of the Law Courts after being acquitted on Thursday in the 2000 murder of his wife, Beverly Rowbotham. Story, page 3. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Budget little help for 'Toba, Selinger says

Budget blues. Premier says health and education overlooked again in federal budget

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

On the whole, Premier Greg Selinger says Thursday's federal budget leaves Manitoba out in the cold.

He's angry the Tories' first budget as a majority government failed to increase health and education transfers to Manitoba for a third straight year.

"This budget does not protect the things that matter to Manitobans, like education and health care," he told reporters at the Legislative Building.

"When you get a zero increase for health … and a zero increase for education at a time when there's a growing need for health care and a growing population, that is not protecting services."

Selinger was somewhat optimistic about the budget's promise of $275 million for education for First Nations, though he was disappointed the money would flow over three years.

"The needs are very immediate," he said.

The Manitoba government will table its own budget on April 17, and the premier said the federal budget wouldn't make the process any easier.

"We're looking at the impact, and the impact doesn't help us do what we need to do to provide services to Manitobans," he said.

MORE BUDGET COVERAGE, PAGE 4.

Bombers sign all-star

Despite off-the-cuff tweets, cornerback Jovon Johnson signs contract extension to stay in Winnipeg
PAGE 16

African rebels divert leaders

Five African presidents forced to take Mali meeting elsewhere when protesters stop their plane form landing
PAGE 6

Death debate continues

Video of neighbourhood-watch captain in police custody adds to furor over shooting of Florida teen
PAGE 6

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Husband deemed innocent

Murder trial. After two days of jury deliberation, Mark Stobbe is found not guilty of the brutal killing his wife

Minutes after being found not guilty in the brutal killing of his wife, former political adviser Mark Stobbe told reporters he would like to know who the killer was, but it's not his task to find out.

"I've heard the judge say on many occasions that that isn't my job. It's not something I can speculate on," Stobbe, 53, said outside court.

"Of course, I want to know."

Stobbe added he now wants to focus on raising his two teenage sons. "I'm very proud of my sons. I know their mother would be too."

After two days of deliberations, a 12-member jury found Stobbe not guilty of second-degree murder Thursday in the death of his wife, Beverly Rowbotham. Her bludgeoned body was found in her car 15 kilometres away from the couple's home in St. Andrew's, Man., on Oct. 25, 2000.

When the verdict was read, Stobbe let out what sounded like a sigh, leaned forward and put his head down on one arm that was resting on the edge of the prisoner's box. When he looked up again, his face was flush with emotion.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Chris Martin told Stobbe he could now focus on raising his children as a tribute to his late wife. The verdict followed seven weeks of testimony from 80 witnesses in a puzzling whodunit based on circumstantial evidence.

Stobbe told police Rowbotham had gone out for a late-night grocery run while he fell asleep. When he woke up about 2:30 a.m., she had not returned. The Crown alleged Stobbe hit his wife with a hatchet 16 times in the head, then carried her body to a car in the garage and drove to Selkirk to make it look like she had been robbed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Secrets of the circus revealed

Shelby Baim-Hobson, 9, demonstrates just one of the many things she's learned to do on the silks during the 16th annual Circus and Magic Partnership happening at Gordon Bell High School over spring break. More than 250 at-risk kids spent the week learning the secrets of the circus trade from world-class professionals.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Crime Stoppers

Man sought in cab theft

Police are looking for this man. CONTRIBUTED

Police are looking for the public's help tracking down a person of interest after someone stole a taxicab from the parking lot of a Corydon-area convenience store earlier this month.

Police were called to the parking lot of the 7-Eleven store at the corner of Corydon Avenue and Arbuthnot Street March 4 around 3 a.m., where a 25-year-old male cabbie had left his car before heading into the store. The taxi was nowhere to be found when he left the store.

The stolen cab was later found abandoned near the 800 block of Lorette Avenue with help from the canine unit.

Police released a photo of the person of interest Thursday. Anyone with information regarding the identity of the man is asked to call investigators at 986-2877 or Crime Stoppers at 786-TIPS. METRO

Ford's calling out to software developers

Michael Robins, product trainer for Ford of Canada, shows off an upgraded MyFord Touch system to software developers. SEAN LEDWICH/METRO

Tech-savvy 'Peggers, Ford wants to steer you in its direction.

Ford played host to about 10 local software developers at Cinematheque on Thursday to familiarize them with MyFord Touch technology upgrades and invite them to create software for the platform.

The technology, introduced last year, allows drivers to use voice commands and touch screen/steering wheel controls to communicate with the personal devices and access data.

"We have a call to independent developers," said Doug VanDagens, global director of connected services for Ford Motor Company, on video conference from Ford's head office in Michigan. VanDagens explained that the technology, and its ability to synchronize with voice-control applications on smartphones, offers exciting opportunities for even small-time developers with limited resources.

Kelly Cassidy, a manager at DMT Development Systems Group Inc., said Ford is the only car company he knows that is allowing independent people to develop software for it. He was impressed after the presentation. "I've not seen anything at this level in an auto system," said Cassidy. "They're the leaders of the pack."

Want to make software for Ford? Go to syncmyride.com/developer. SEAN LEDWICH/METRO

1 NEWS

On the web

'Any way the wind blows' in a paddy wagon

What happens in the back of a cruiser, stays in the back of a cruiser — unless, of course, it's a slurry rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody sung by recently arrested, rugged Prairie man. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

As the United States moves to paperless medicine, doctors are grappling with an awkward challenge: How do they tap the promise of computers, smartphones and iPads in the exam room without losing the human connection with their patients? Scan for the story.

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Federal budget puts economic growth in hands of private sector

Budget. Government appears intent on making it easier for businesses to get the green light on major resource projects

Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty delivers the federal budget in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is giving Canada's corporate titans the means to drive the economy — while signalling government is moving to the back seat.

Thursday's massive budget — at nearly 500 pages it is one-third bigger than last year's — is chock-a-block full of direct spending and incentives to help firms expand, invest and export, as well as measures designed to shed some of the shackles on their growth.

"They are trying to create a favourable environment in which businesses can grow. The government is telling business, 'We carried the ball during the recession, now it's your turn,'" said TD Bank chief economist Craig Alexander.

That budget suggests government is getting out of the business of stimulating the economy. In fact, Ottawa is creating a slight fiscal drag with average spending growth of 2.1 per cent over the next five years that is a shade under inflation.

The message of the budget is that future growth will have to come from exporting to other countries and business investments in plants, machinery and equipment.

"Speedier regulatory approvals, limits on employment insurance rates, improvements on the foreign worker program, venture capital, what they are doing to support small business innovation, that's all important stuff," Jayson Myers of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters said.

Myers withdraws praise in changes to the Scientific Research and Experimental Development program to reduce the tax credit rate and withdraw capital from eligible expenditures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Penny saved is ... now worthless

The humble one-cent piece is set to disappear from Canadian pockets, a victim of inflation.

Thursday's federal budget said the Royal Canadian Mint will strike the last of the little coins this fall. The budget says the cost of minting a penny has risen to 1.6 cents or $11 million a year. Its purchasing power has fallen to a 20th of its original value.

"Some Canadians consider the penny more of a nuisance than a useful coin," the budget documents said.

Pennies will still be legal tender, but as they slowly vanish from circulation, prices will have to be rounded up or down. If the customer has the pennies, they can use them.

Payments with debit or credit cards, or cheques, can also be to the penny. But if the customer is paying cash and doesn't have the pennies, the total will go up or down to the nearest nickel. For example, $1.02 will become $1 and $1.03 will be $1.05.

The budget said experience in other countries that have dropped low-denomination coins suggests there will be no impact on inflation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa

Win a Baby winners conceive

Natasha and Ryan Derouchie of Ottawa never thought a radio contest would have helped them make their dream of having a child come true, but it did, and they couldn't be happier.

The Hot 89.9 radio station announced on the air Thursday morning that the finalist couple in the controversial Win a Baby contest is expecting a child.

The Derouchies and four other couples won up to three fertility treatments valued at $35,000 in October.

JOE LOFARO/FOR METRO

Halifax

Door-to-door drug sale a bust

Police say a 43-year-old Dartmouth, N.S., man tried his luck at selling drugs door-to-door and it didn't turn out very well.

Halifax Regional Police say they responded to a report of a suspicious male who had been going door-to-door on Albro Lake Road in Dartmouth on Wednesday night.

Police say when they located the suspect he had a variety of prescription drugs and a brass knuckle switchblade combo in his possession. He will appear in court on charges including possession of a prohibited weapon and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

METRO

London

Duo bring flair bartending to city

London, Ont., bartender Dustin Kiefer decided to take up flair bartending four years ago. After mastering basic juggling techniques and managing to work in some visually pleasing drink-pouring maneuvers here and there, the 24-year-old thought he'd enter competitions.

He was ranked 22nd in the world by the Flair Bartenders' Association last year. Only three Canadians appear higher on the list than Kiefer, who is far from being considered a veteran.

JOHN MATISZ/FOR METRO

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HOW CAN A CREDIT CARD EARN YOU A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE?

SALLY AND CALEB ARE EMPTY NESTERS — AND THEY ARE LOVING IT!

In their early 50s, they both have government jobs with a combined annual household income of $150,000. While they are still supporting their son who is in his last year of university in London, Ont., that's the only large expense they have. Their retirement savings are on track, their house in midtown Toronto is paid for and so are both of their cars.

The financial freedom means they're travelling much more than before. "And, we especially love our weekends away," says Sally.

The couple just booked another special getaway that will include an event in the Visa Infinite Dining Series. Their *Scotia Momentum*® VISA Infinite* card provides exclusive access to a range of cultural activities and wine and dine events.

"This time we're going to the Langdon Hall Country House Hotel and Spa in Cambridge, Ont., for a country culinary escape! It's really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," says Sally. The couple will join other cardholders and award-winning Chef Jonathan Gushue for an extraordinary sit-down meal.

The *Scotia Momentum* VISA Infinite card is the only reward card the couple uses these days. "We like getting cash back on the cash we spend," says Caleb. The couple use the card to pay for about $36,000 worth of purchases a year.

The *Scotia Momentum* VISA Infinite card provides 4 per cent cash back on gas and groceries, 2 per cent cash back on drugstore items and recurring bill payments, and 1 per cent cash back on all other eligible purchases. While there is an annual fee of $99, the payback is more than worth it, says Caleb.

Last year they got back $744. "And we had so many special occasions away," says Sally.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

Sally and Caleb's profile:

Sally and Caleb use their *Scotia Momentum*® VISA Infinite* card to pay for about $3000 worth of purchases a month. Remember that some fixed costs are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.

	$0	1,000	2,000	
Grocery Store				$ 400
Gas Station				$ 500
Drug Store				$ 300
Recurring Bills				$ 200
Other				$ 1,600
			Total Monthly	**$ 3,000**

Sally and Caleb's Estimated Annual *Scotia Momentum*® Cash Back

Sally and Caleb have a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA Infinite* card. Here's a look at the cash back their purchases add up to.

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† You will earn 4% cash back on the first $25,000 you spend annually at VISA merchants classified in the VISA network as Grocery Stores & Supermarkets, Service Stations (with or without ancillary services) and Automated Fuel Dispensers (Merchant Codes 5411, 5541, & 5542). You will earn 2% cash back on the first $25,000 you spend annually at VISA merchants classified as Drug Stores & Pharmacies (Merchant Codes 5912) and Recurring Payments. These added benefits will not apply to merchants located on the premises of these merchants but who are classified by VISA in another manner. Recurring payments are defined as payments made on a monthly or regular basis automatically billed by a merchant. Not all merchants offer recurring payments. You will earn 1% cash back on purchases made after you have reached the 4% $25,000 annual spend maximum across the 4%, 2%, and normal cash back rate and on all other purchases made with the card. Cash back is not awarded for cash advances, Scotia® VISA cheques, credit vouchers, payments, purchase returns, card fees, interest charges or service charges and other charges.

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Political unrest. African presidents forced to divert plane by rebels

Five African presidents seeking to restore Mali's elected government were forced to make a mid-air U-turn and head to Ivory Coast to hold their meeting, after demonstrators supporting the military junta took over the tarmac to stop the jets from landing, officials said.

The presidents of Ivory Coast, Benin, Liberia, Niger and Burkina Faso were due to arrive in Mali on Thursday to press for the departure of the junior officers that grabbed power in a coup last week, reversing over two decades of democratic rule in this landlocked nation south of the Sahara.

The planes carrying the presidents landed in the capital of Ivory Coast, where they went ahead with their meeting, officials said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What happened?

Last week's coup happened in one of the few established democracies in the troubled western half of the African continent.

- **New leader.** Sanogo, who is in his 30s, seized power from President Amadou Toumani Toure, who is considered one of Africa's senior statesman, and was just months from stepping down.

Poland

Official dismisses assassination claims

Poland's top prosecutor says there is no evidence to support theories that a 2010 plane crash that killed President Lech Kaczynski was an assassination.

Prosecutor General Andrzej Seremet was reacting Thursday to comments made by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, a conservative party leader, who suggested the plane crash was intentional. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security video adds to debate over teen's death

Florida. Footage of George Zimmerman in handcuffs has Trayvon Martin supporters questioning official story again

A security video that shows neighbourhood-watch captain George Zimmerman being led in handcuffs from a police car after he fatally shot Trayvon Martin is adding to the debate over whether the shooting was a case of self-defence.

An attorney for the teen's family said it looks to him that Zimmerman doesn't have injuries to his face and head in the video as Zimmerman's supporters have said.

Zimmerman told police he fired in self-defence and he was not arrested, touching off widespread public outrage and protests across the country. Zimmerman's attorney, Craig Sonner, has said in more than one interview that his client's nose was broken during the fight with Martin.

Sanford police Sgt. David Morgenstern on Wednesday confirmed that the video being shown by ABC News is of Zimmerman. The 28-year-old's head and face are visible throughout and he is dressed in a red-and-black fleece jacket. Police are shown frisking Zimmerman, whose hands were handcuffed behind his back. They then lead him into a police station.

"This certainly doesn't look like a man who police said had his nose broken and his head repeatedly smashed into the sidewalk," Ben Crump, an attorney for Martin's family, said in a statement. "George Zimmerman has no apparent injuries in this video, which dramatically contradicts his version of the events of Feb. 26." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this image taken from video at the Sanford, Fla., police department, George Zimmerman, in a red jacket, is escorted into the Sanford police station in handcuffs on Feb. 26, the night he fatally shot Trayvon Martin. MARTIN FAMILY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters

Martin's supporters, including a host of outspoken celebrities and civil rights leaders who have appeared on television for the past two weeks, don't believe Zimmerman's story. They want him arrested and prosecuted.

- **Forced into hiding.** Since the shooting, Zimmerman's supporters say he's gone into hiding and that he and his family have gotten death threats.

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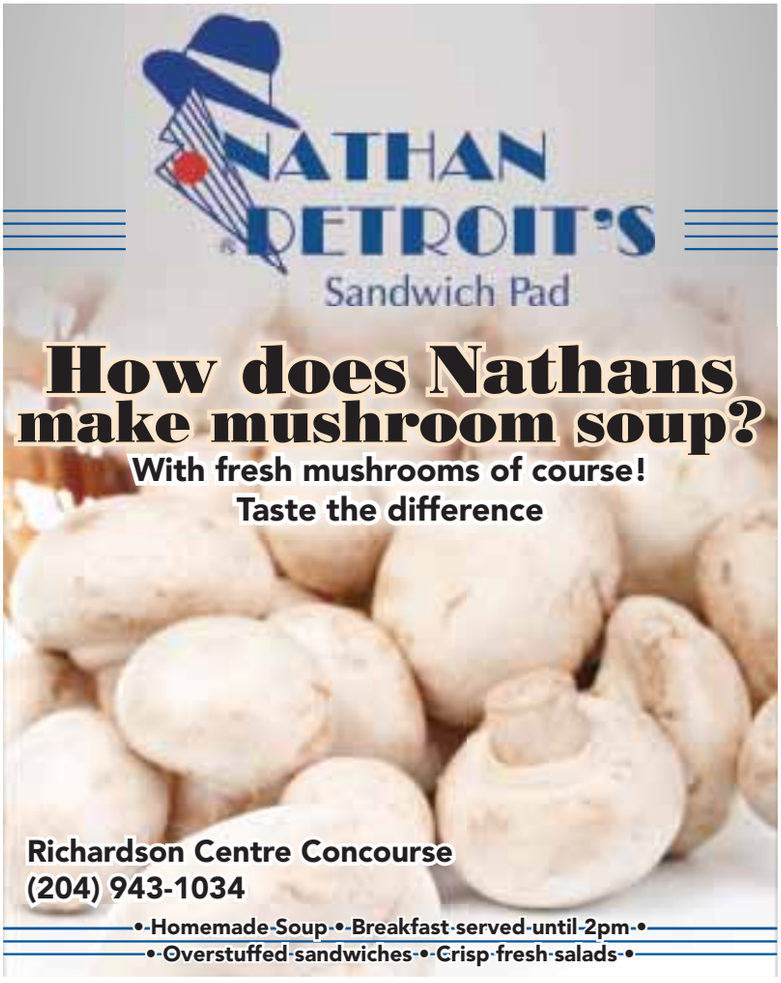

Research in Motion.
Former co-CEO Balsillie resigns from board

Research in Motion says former co-CEO Jim Balsillie, the hockey-loving executive who for years helped build the BlackBerry into a global force in the smartphone industry, has resigned from the board.

The announcement, symbolic of the changes afoot at Canada's reigning technology leader, came along with a financial report that fell short of analysts' already low expectations.

The company announced from its headquarters in Waterloo, Ont., that it had a loss in the final quarter of its 2011 financial year, rather than the profit that had been expected, as a result of writing down some of its assets.

Sales of the BlackBerry were also below many analysts' expectations. The company, which usually provides guidance about where it expects revenue and profit will be in the near future, said it was discontinuing that practice.

Research In Motion also said it is undertaking a strategic review of its alternatives — a term that can sometimes mean major changes for a company, such as a sale or merger — a process that has essentially been under way for months.

Balsillie — who had been co-chief executive of RIM along with company founder Mike Lazaridis until they stepped aside in January — had become one of Canada's best-known businessmen.

"As I complete my retirement from RIM, I'm grateful for this remarkable experience and for the opportunity to have worked with outstanding professionals who helped turn a Canadian idea into a global success," Balsillie said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quarterly results

- RIM reported Thursday a loss for its latest quarter of $125 million US, or 24 cents per share, as it took a $355-million charge to goodwill.
- The loss compared with a profit of $934 million, or $1.78 per diluted share, a year ago. Revenue fell to $4.2 billion, down from $5.6 billion.

Panic at the pumps

Drivers line up for fuel on Thursday in St. Austell, England. A suggestion by government ministers that drivers should store gas in cans at home appeared to ignite an impulse buying of fuel. MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES

Market Moment

DOLLAR
100.33¢ US
(+0.12¢)

TSX
12,339.36 (-74.49)

OIL
$102.78 US (-$2.63)

GOLD
$1,652.20 US (-$5.70)

Natural gas: $2.15 US (-13¢)
Dow Jones: 13,145.82 (+19.61)

Communications

Rogers laying off 300 employees

Rogers Communications says it is laying off about 300 employees across its operations.

Company spokeswoman Patricia Trott says the cuts are focused on management and head-office positions. Employees were notified on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

Metro now reaching nearly 1.5M daily readers: NADbank

Sharing quality news for free, at the right time, in the right place and in the right format continues to be the recipe for success at Metro, which grew in all seven markets in which it was measured, according to results released Thursday by the Newspaper Audience Databank (NADbank).

Metro Canada now reaches 1,492,700 daily and 3,388,900 weekly readers coast-to-coast in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. In comparison to NADbank 2010 results, this represents an increase of 10 per cent more daily readers and 11 per cent more weekly readers.

"The NADbank results confirm Metro's leadership as the daily newspaper of choice for YAMs (youthful, active metropolitans)," says Bill McDonald, president and publisher of Metro English Canada. METRO

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ACTION PLAN

Canada

OWEN WILSON, VINCE VAUGHN ONE-UPPED BY THE QUEEN

THE LIST
Neil Morton
Metro

1 **Junos honour Simple Plan:** After fan mail from troubled youth who found optimism in their music, Montreal's Simple Plan created the Simple Plan Foundation six years ago to help young people with social and mental-health problems. At the Junos this weekend in Ottawa, they'll be recognized with the Allan Waters Humanitarian Award. Kudos.

2 **Spread the Net:** Historic downtown Peterborough, Ont., arts high school PCVS will be featured on CBC's Rick Mercer Report Tuesday for winning the "Spread the Net" fundraising student challenge, used to purchase mosquito nets to help prevent the spread of malaria in African countries. The win is bittersweet, as the local school board has decided to close the school. Learn more at peterboroughneedspcvs.com.

3 **Queen wedding crasher:** The Queen and Prince Philip stunned newlyweds John and Frances Canning, showing up unannounced just after their wedding in Manchester to congratulate them. This was fantastic PR for Buckingham Palace and the Queen. Also, Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn, you have been replaced if there is ever a Wedding Crashers sequel.

4 **Band Wagon:** A new Canadian YouTube series, Band Wagon, features up-and-coming musicians and bands like The Reason, The Balconies, Union City and Monster Truck driving around in a car, singing songs. Great concept, perfect bandwagon to jump on.

5 **James Cameron:** The acclaimed director tweeted @JimCameron on Sunday that he "Just arrived at the ocean's deepest pt. Hitting bottom never felt so good. Can't wait to share what I'm seeing w/ you @DeepChallenge" He's referring to a new deep-sea documentary based on his adventures in his one-man sub. Cameron reaches the world's deepest point? I'm still trying to reach the deep end of my pool.

6 **Quebec Nordiques**: Quebec City is starting construction on an NHL-style arena this fall, paving the way for them to get an NHL team. The arena should be done by 2015. There's no guarantee they'll get a team again but, fingers crossed, we'll see a Nordiques team skating there soon. The Winnipeg Jets are back, why not the Nordiques? And then the Cleveland Barons.

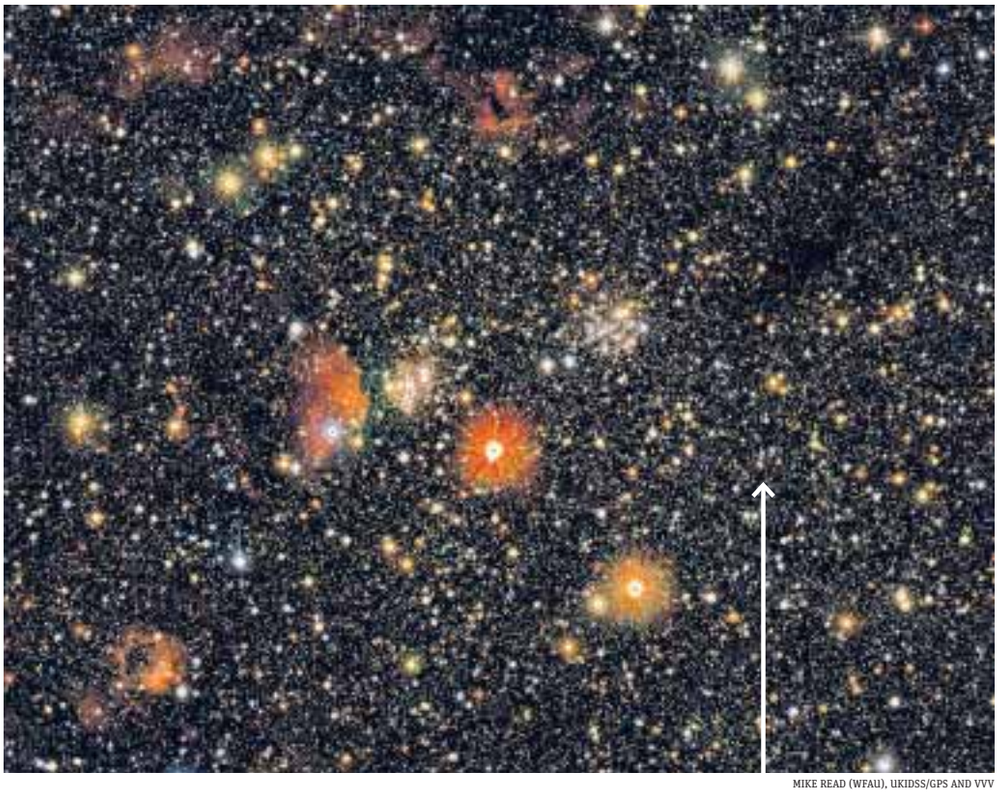
7 **Jian Ghomeshi:** The host of CBC's radio show Q said in a personal-finance Q&A that the best money-saving advice came from his parents: "Be patient. Try to avoid spending money in spontaneous ways." If only that simple advice was given to kids by every parent, we wouldn't have quite as many Canadians in debt.

8 **Pizza-fan applause:** Things are so bad on the Toronto sports scene that the loudest applause is when the Raptors score 100 points at home games, giving everyone a free slice of pizza. "It's tough when your fans get more excited about a slice of pizza than us winning," said Raptors coach Dwane Casey. Reality bites.

9 **April Fool's Day:** Sunday is April 1. Don't do anything I wouldn't do. In other words, give'r, pranksters.

A scene from Wedding Crashers, where Owen Wilson, left, and Vince Vaughn play divorce mediators who spend their weekends crashing weddings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twinkle, twinkle, that's a lot of stars



MIKE READ (WFAU), UKIDSS/GPS AND VVV

Space

Starriest photo sets a record

More than one billion stars in the Milky Way can be seen together in detail for the first time in a photograph captured by astronomers. Scientists from the U.K., Europe and Chile made the picture by combining thousands of infrared-light images from two telescopes in both of our planet's hemispheres.
MWN

Image

Zoom deeper to find more stars

The above image is a mere fraction of the entire picture, which alone contains more than 10,000 stars. "Compared to the composite image we took 10 years ago, this one is 100 times deeper," Nick Cross, an astronomer at the University of Edinburgh in charge of archiving the image, told Metro.
MWN

The galactic centre of the Milky Way, the galaxy's brightest section.
MIKE READ (WFAU), UKIDSS/GPS AND VVV

Metropolitan Panel

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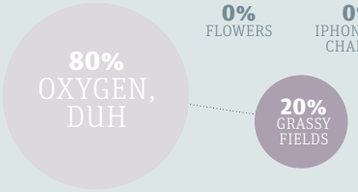
If you were to relocate to the moon, what's the one item you'd like to take from Earth?



Twitter

@Denezy:
My heart and love goes out to the Rowbotham family on this terrible day. #stobbe #notguilty

@KKMcQ:
I don't know what to think. I wasn't on the jury or in the courtroom. Too bad reasonable doubt is a one-way street. #stobbe

@BenBrisebois:
I don't want to say murder trials bring out worst in ppl, they just bring out every type of human reaction possible. Check #stobbe hashtag

@SiloamMission:
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@gracerhovhie:
We live in Winnipeg, are you seriously that surprised that it's snowing right now? #calmdown #winnipeg

metro
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Julia Roberts butchers an English accent and Lily Collins bears an uncanny resemblance to the cartoon Snow White in Mirror Mirror. HANDOUT

A reflection of mediocrity

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Mirror Mirror.

Tarsem Singh's take on Snow White fails with the Reel Guys.
Ned Ehrbar sits in for Mark Breslin this week

Richard: Ned, as with all of Tarsem Singh Dhandwar's films, Mirror Mirror is beautiful to look at. He certainly has an eye for set decoration. But in this case I wish they had spent the money on gag writers rather than lavish sets. I know it is supposed to be a family movie, but even five year olds deserve better than the old hat slapstick and word play on display here. Even the seven dwarfs on their spring-loaded stilts can't put any bounce into this fractured fairy tale.

Ned: There are some really painful moments, agreed. The odd mix of modern mannerisms and speech with the period/fairy tale setting was supposed to seem hip and playful, I think, but it just fell flat. And speaking of flat — and those Tarsem visuals — while the interiors of the palace and the costumes looked amazing, the mysterious forest where much of the action takes place felt so thin and set-like. I expect more from Tarsem in that department.

RC: I expected more from him period. The cast, however, I did think was trying. Collins is picture perfect as Snow White — she bears an uncanny resemblance to the cartoon version — and Armie Hammer, should his career survive the dreadful dog impression he has to do here, has a future playing handsome princes. Julia Roberts is the star attraction and while her comedic timing is in place, the lines she has to say don't connect. What did you think of the cast?

NE: Hammer was definitely perfectly cast as Prince Charming, proving he can do just about anything — even that cringe-inducing puppy scene — and still remain regal. Collins was perfectly fine, though her role consisted mostly of reacting to other characters and reiterating the movie's main themes. But Roberts lost me when she couldn't keep up what I can only imagine is supposed to be a British accent for more than a couple of sentences. The performance was all over the place, and honestly I just wanted her to be meaner.

RC: Was she supposed to be doing an English accent? I ask rhetorically. Not since Kevin Costner's Robin Hood has the Standard British accent taken such a mauling. What she does to the Queen's English is evil enough, she doesn't need to be any crueler to get the point across.

NE: Overall, this was an unfortunate mix of risky and safe moves, with not enough of the former.

Synopsis

Julia Roberts plays the evil step-queen to the beautiful Snow White (Lily Collins). After Snow's father, the King (Sean Bean), mysteriously disappears, the Queen brings the country to the brink of bankruptcy and locks Snow away. But when the young princess attracts the attention of a young prince (Armie Hammer) the jealous Queen orders Snow murdered. Instead, she is set free in the forest where she is found by seven dwarfs.

- Richard:
- Ned:

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Avengers to close Tribeca

The superhero bonanza The Avengers will close the 11th annual Tribeca Film Festival. The festival announced Wednesday that the Marvel epic will be the festival's closing night film on April 28. The film, directed by Joss Whedon and starring Robert Downey Jr., is based on the comic book series that unites Iron Man, the Incredible Hulk, Thor, Captain America and others. The Tribeca Film Festival runs from April 18 to April 29. Opening the festival will be The Five-Year Engagement, a comedy starring Jason Segel and produced by Judd Apatow.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Sea, sand, Jerusalem: Chariots of Fire remastered for London Olympics

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Action

Wrath of the Titans

Director. Jonathan Liebesman

Stars. Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson, Rosamund Pike

The brawny sequel to 2009's Clash of the Titans, Wrath of the Titans is a kind of masterwork of monster mash pop art. This thing is just wall to wall creatures and the eye widening ways in which half god son of Zeus Perseus (Sam Worthington) destroys them is downright glorious. The cynic in you may start to question the plot and the pithy character motivations, but for heavens sake, don't; just allow your inner 12 year old to embrace it.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Drama

In Darkness

Director. Agnieszka Holland

Stars. Robert Wieckiewicz, Benno Fürmann

An Oscar-nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, great performances aid In Darkness to construct the factual tale of a thieving opportunist who risked lives to hide Jews in the filthy sewers of occupied-Poland during the Second World War. Although the structure of Holocaust survival stories have become, dare I say it, almost familiar on-screen by now, Agnieszka Holland still boils down the essence of humanity and shapes the horror to be palatable, suspenseful and deeply affecting long after the film's conclusion.

STEVE GOW

Titanic 3D not a cash grab says Sam Worthington

Titanic 3D sails into theatres next Friday. HANDOUT

Controversy. Star of Avatar comes to the defence of director James Cameron, saying group who reworked blockbuster 'pushed themselves'

Director James Cameron, who recently spent a few hours at the deepest point in the ocean in the Mariana Trench, is about to release his monster blockbuster hit Titanic in 3D format. It was once the most successful movie of all time, raking in $1.84 billion in 1997, but was beat out by Cameron's other landmark 3D film Avatar with a whopping $2.77 billion. So, does this whole 3D conversion of the story of Jack and Rose start to smell a little like a lame money-grab?

Sam Worthington, star of Avatar, came to the defence of the director while promoting his own upcoming 3D film, Wrath of the Titans:

"Audiences are smart. They know when you just put the 3D on and it's just to get money. They know it. And also the 3D can be very simplified. This at least, I believe the guys pushed themselves a bit to try to push the 3D and I think audiences will notice that. They're going to see that Titanic 3D as well — that Jim [Cameron] hasn't just tacked it on to get extra bucks."

METRO

Quoted

"Audiences are smart. They know when you just put the 3D on and it's just to get money ... I believe the guys pushed themselves a bit to try to push the 3D and I think audiences will notice that.

Avatar star Sam Worthington in reaction to claims that James Cameron's re-release of Titanic in 3D was just a 'cash grab.'

Quoted

"Wrath of the Titans was a completely different experience for me. The characters that I've played so far, they have inhabited a naturalistic, realistic world. So for me, it was very interesting to explore this sort of fantasy. Fantasy, mythology and special effects — a world of imagination, of what the Greek myths could have been...."

Actor Edgar Ramirez, who plays Ares, the god of war, in Wrath of the Titans, and received critical acclaim for his work in the three-part miniseries Carlos.

Anchorman 2. It's time to crack open that bottle of Sex Panther

This is kind of a big deal: After years of trying to get it off the ground — including rumours of a musical — newscaster Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) will finally be back in Anchorman 2.

"I want to announce this to everyone in the Americas, to our friends in Spain, Turkey and the U.K., including England," he said on Wednesday night's Conan show, in full character.

"That as of 0900 Mountain time, Paramount Pictures and myself, Ronald Joseph Aaron Burgundy, have come to terms on a sequel to Anchorman.

"It is official, there will be a sequel to Anchorman." Yes indeed, if you are a Ron Burgundy fan, this is kind of a big deal and cause to break out the Sex Panther.

METRO

Ron Burgundy is back. Stay classy San Diego. HANDOUT

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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Madrid, Spain – Fit in anywhere around the globe with the 2012 Chevrolet Cruze. With best-in-class highway fuel efficiency and best-in-class safety there'll be no stone left untouched.

1. Removed wall fixture from left side of image 2. Changed colour of windowsill ledge left of the 2012 Chevrolet Cruze 3. Changed garage door foundation from stone to match the building 4. Removed scooter from behind the 2012 Chevrolet Cruze 5. Removed plant from right of the 2012 Chevrolet Cruze 6. Removed step from right side of image 7. Removed side ledge from right side of image 8. Removed curb from right of image 9. Removed second manhole cover from bottom of image 10. Changed licence plate numbers from "0434" to "3434"

DRIVING OUR WORLD FORWARD
CHEVROLET.CA

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MARCH 30 TO THURS., APRIL 5. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Winnipeg

Cinema City McGillivray 2190 McGillivray Blvd., 204-269-9981

Act of Valor (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:40-7:30-10:05
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri-Thu 3:55-9:50
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-7:10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Thu 1:50-4-6:20-8:50
Beauty and the Beast 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 2-4:20-7:15-9:30
Big Miracle (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-6:50-9:40
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-7:40-10:15
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:40-9:35
Hugo (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-6:30
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 3:20-9:50
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-7-10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:10
Wanderlust (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-8-10:20
War Horse (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:50-8:10

Cinema City Northgate 1399 McPhillips Street, 204-334-6234

Act of Valor (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:50-7:20-10 Mon-Wed 5:10-8 Thu 3:40-6:30-9:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sun 2-4:20-6:40-9 Mon-Wed 5:30-8 Thu 4-6:40-8:50
Chronicle (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-9:30 Mon-Wed 5:40-8:20 Thu 3:50-7-9:40
Hugo (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:50 Mon-Wed 5-7:50 Thu 3:30-6:20-9:10
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-6:50-9:40 Mon-Wed 4:40-7:30 Thu 3:10-6-8:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:50-9:40 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:40 Thu 3:20-6:10-9
Wanderlust (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:20 Mon-Wed 5:20-8:10 Thu 3:50-6:50-9:30
We Bought a Zoo (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:10 Mon-Wed 5-7:50 Thu 3:30-6:20-9:10

Cinematheque 304-100 Arthur, 204-925-3457

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Tue
People of a Feather (STC) Fri-Sat 7-9 Sun 7 Wed 7 Thu 9

Famous Players Kildonan Place 1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:20-4:30-6:40-8:50 Mon-Thu 6-8
The Hunger Games (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-12:30-3:10-3:40-6:30-7-9:40-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-5:50-8:30-9
Mirror Mirror (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3-6:50-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40
Wrath of the Titans (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-7:20-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10

Grant Park 8 Cinemas 1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084

21 Jump Street (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-3:55-7:20-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:55-7:20-10:10
Alvin & The Chipmunks (Toonie Matinee) (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 12:20-3:40
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:35-6:40
The Hunger Games (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:15-12:45-3:30-4-6:45-8-9:30-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:30-4-6:45-8-9:30-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:30-4-6:45-8-10
John Carter (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:20
John Carter 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:55-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 3:40-6:55-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 3:40-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:40-6:55-9:55
Mirror Mirror (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:20-6:30-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:35
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:05-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-7:05-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:15-7:05-10:15
Titanic 3D (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:35-7:45
We Bought a Zoo (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-3:45
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7:15-9:45

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place Y003-393 Portage Avenue, 204-956-4629

Bears (STC) Sat 12
Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Fri 12:15 Sat-Sun 1:15 Wed 12:30 Thu 11
Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Fri 1:15 Sun 12 Mon 11
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Tue 11 Wed 10:15
Hubble 3D (G) Tue 12:15
The Human Body (STC) Wed 11:15 Thu 12
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sat 2:30-7:30 Sun 2:30
Tornado Alley 3D (G) Fri-Sat 6:15 Mon 12:15

Landmark Globe Cinema 393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583

The Hunger Games (14A) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 7-9:50
In Darkness (14A) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10
A Separation (STC) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:15-9:45 Mon-Tue 7:15-9:45
Titanic 3D (14A) Wed-Thu 7:30

Landmark Towne Cinema 8 301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848

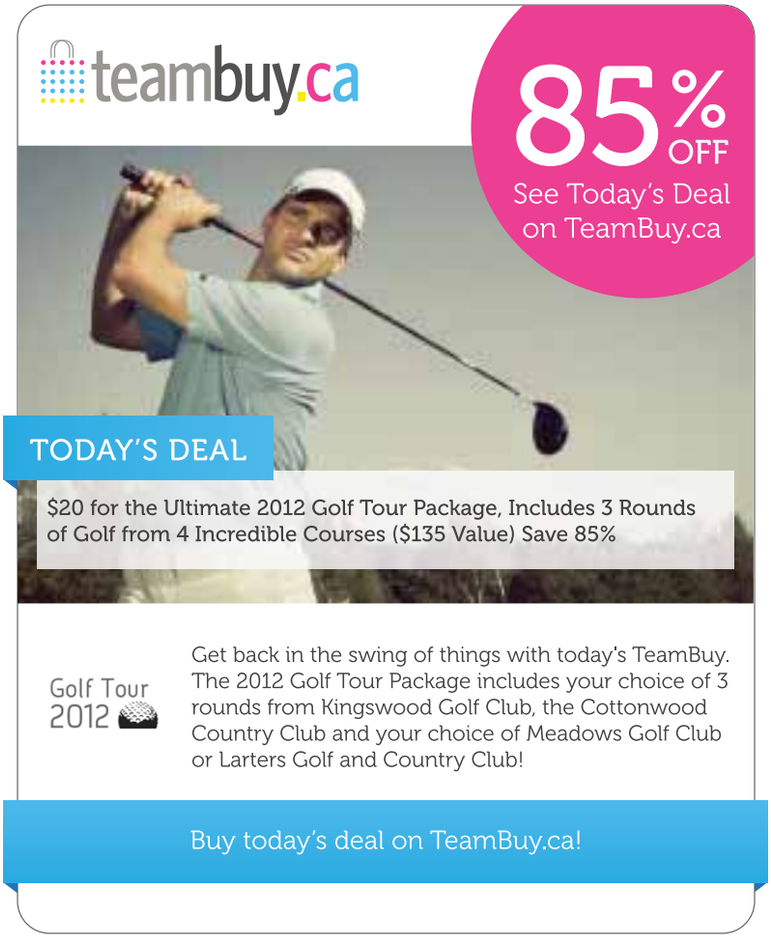
21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 4-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Sat-Sun 3:30
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri 3:30-7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-7:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:15
The Hunger Games (14A) Fri 3:45-6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:45 Fri 4:15-7:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15 Mon-Thu 7:15
John Carter (PG) Fri 3:30-6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:40
Mirror Mirror (G) Fri 4-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Silent House (14A) Fri 3:45-7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:45-7:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:15
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri 3:30-7:9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

SilverCity Polo Park 815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:45-5:30-8:10-10:50 Sun 12:10-2:45-8-10:50 Mon-Tue 2-5-7:45-10:25 Wed 5-7:45-10:25 Thu 2-5-7:45-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri 1:10-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:25 Sat 11:05-1:10-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:25 Sun 1:10-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:15-3:30-5:45-8:05-10:15
Friends With Kids (14A) Fri-Sat 12:15-2:40-5:15-7:55 Sun 12:15-2:40-5:15 Mon-Wed 1:55-4:45-7:20 Thu 1:55-4:20
Goon (18A) Fri-Sun 1:25-3:45-6:10-8:25-10:55 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:35-9:55
The Hunger Games (14A) No Passes Fri 12:50-4:10-7:25-10:45 No Passes Sat 4:25-7:25-10:45 No Passes Sun 12:50-4:10-7:25-10:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:25-10:30 No Passes Fri-Sun 11:40-12-12:25-2:55-3:20-3:50-6:05-6:30-7-9:15-9:45-10:15 No Passes Mon 12:30-1:10-2-3:50-4:30-5:15-7:55-8:30-10:15 No Passes Tue 12:30-1:10-2-3:50-4:30-5:15-7-7:55-8:30-10:15 No Passes Wed 12:30-1:10-3:50-4:30-7-7:55-10:15 No Passes Thu 12:30-1:10-3:50-4:30-7:55-10:15
John Carter (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:25-7:40-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:55-7:15-10:20
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35 Mon-Thu 2:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Ernani - Encore (STC) Sat 11:55
Mirror Mirror (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:40-4:25-7:40-10:20 No Passes Wed 4:25-7:40-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:25-7:40-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Neverending Story (STC) Sat 11
Project X (18A) Fri-Sun 3-5:20-7:35-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:50-10
Rascal Flatts: Changed (STC) Thu 7
Safe House (14A) Fri-Sun 10:35 Mon-Thu 10:05
Titanic 3D (14A) No Passes Mon 6:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 1-5-9
Titanic: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12-4-8
Wrath of the Titans (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-3:05-5:35-8-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:30-4-7:05-10:10
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-3:30-6-8:30-11 No Passes Mon 1-3:15-8-10:30 No Passes Tue-Thu 1-3:15-5:35-8-10:30
Wrath of the Titans: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50
WWE WrestleMania XXVIII (STC) Sun 6

SilverCity St. Vital 110-1225 St Mary's Rd, 204-256-3901

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:10
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:30-6:40-9:10
The Hunger Games (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 No Passes Fri-Tue 12-12:20-3:20-3:40-6:30-7-9:50-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:40-7-10:15
John Carter 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:40-10:40
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40
Mirror Mirror (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:10-10
Project X (18A) Fri-Tue 4:50-8-10:20 Wed 4:50-10:20 Thu 4:50-8-10:20
Titanic 3D (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 12-4:10-8:20
Wrath of the Titans (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-6:50-9:30
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:50-10:30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metro

Megan likes being a Fox

Don't hate Megan Fox because she's beautiful. The Friends with Kids star feels right at home with her striking looks.

"I live well with my image. I cannot complain. I would not trade my place with an unattractive girl," she tells French magazine Jalouse.

Of course, Fox might not be aware of exactly how the rest of the world sees her: "I hate taking pictures," she says. "I never look at them, otherwise I would have to change everything. I prefer not to see any and trust the photographer, who knows his job."

Peter Facinelli

Twilight star is now single, ladies

Twilight star Peter Facinelli officially filed for divorce from Jennie Garth this week, citing "irreconcilable differences," according to People magazine.

"I was very resistant. I didn't want it to happen. It took me some time to come to peace with it," Garth tells the magazine about the divorce.

"I've gone though my darkest parts and I'm coming out of it. I'm OK. I don't know what the future holds, but then I've never been a planner. And maybe that's a good thing."

Coincidentally, the two have a reality TV show debuting next month, and their divorce will reportedly be a major plot point.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lindsay Lohan is back on the streets

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

For the first time in recent history, Lindsay Lohan is not on probation, in jail, or falling out of a car.

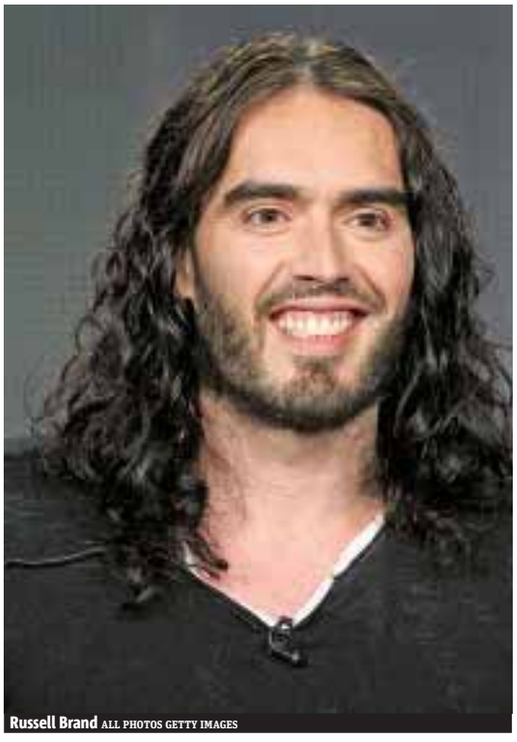
At a hearing Thursday afternoon, Judge Stephanie Sautner — who has, historically, not been a fan of Lohan or her courtroom circus — ended the actress' formal probation after agreeing that her community service was successfully completed. In return, Lohan is required to obey all laws — even the annoying ones that we non-famous people abide by — for two-and-a-half years.

Where's Lohan to next?

- Canada, it seems. Her upcoming Elizabeth Taylor movie is shooting in Toronto, and she's been granted a Canadian work permit, reports TMZ.

"I know it's kinda hard when people are following you all over the place, but that's the life you chose," said Sautner. "I'm not going to give a lecture because you know what you need to do. You need to live your life in a more mature way. Stop the nightclubbing and focus on your work."

Or focus on a Magic Eye — anything should do at this point, Linds. We're proud of you, and we're cancelling your standing Monday gossip reservation.



Russell Brand ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Did Russell Brand go back to his cheating ways while married to Katy Perry?

It's unclear what caused the sudden split between Katy Perry and Russell Brand, but Perry's pals apparently think the British comedian was being unfaithful.

One of her friends, actor Jonathan Schaech, posted on Twitter, "Cheating is easy, try doing something challenging and be faithful," and the post was retweeted by another friend of Perry, jewelry designer Markus Molinari, who added his own comment: "Seeee Russell!"

Whatever the case may be, Perry was pretty convinced last year that Brand would be faithful: "He's made no secret of what his life was like before me, but that's then and this is the future," she told Radar Online.

"He's cheated in the past but he knows how good he has it with me and I know he'd never do anything to jeopardize that. I trust him 100 per cent."

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This recipe makes 24 crostini. EMILY RICHARDS

Taste of entertaining gets more appealing

Wilted Spinach and Garlic Crostini. These little bites will impress guests with their contrasting textures of crunch and softness

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Deep, earthy green spinach with lots of garlic sits atop a toasted baguette slice for the perfect contrast of crunch and softness in these Wilted Spinach and Garlic Crostini appetizers.

For an added flavour hit, place a shaving of aged Manchego cheese on top of the spinach just before serving.

You can also make the crostini ahead of time and keep on hand for a quick appetizer accompaniment for those times when unexpected guests drop by.

1. Brush the baguette slices with some of the extra virgin olive oil and place them on large baking sheet. Toast the baguette slices in a 425 F (220 C) oven for about 8 minutes or until they are golden brown. Sprinkle with salt and let cool.

2. Cook the spinach, one bag at a time, in large nonstick skillet over medium high heat, stirring often, for about 5 minutes or until wilted. Place in colander and drain well. Repeat this step with the remaining bag. Set aside.

3. Heat the remaining olive oil in skillet over medium heat. Cook the garlic, anchovies and hot pepper flakes for about 2 minutes, or until turning they are golden.

4. Add the spinach and toss it to coat with olive oil and garlic sauce. Cook everything for about 2 minutes or until it is all well coated and warmed. Remove the mixture from heat and season to taste with salt.

4. Divide the mixture among the toasted baguette slices and serve.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY AND HER RECIPES, PLEASE VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.

Ingredients

- Half French baguette, sliced
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) extra virgin olive oil
- Sea salt
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 anchovies, minced
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) hot pepper flakes
- 2 bags (10 oz/300 g each) baby spinach, rinsed

Liquid Assets

A magical combo that sparkles

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.ca

Don't hate me because I'm beautiful, hate me because at this moment I'm sitting at an outdoor resto in Verona Italy, enjoying a Spritz.

It's a magical combination of the Italian aperitif Aperol ($21.99 - $25.98) with an equal part of Prosecco, a dash of sparkling water and a garnishing slice of orange.

Prosecco aficionados may cringe, but the refreshing flavour mix screams spring and is an amazing appetite enhancer, which explains why everyone in the Vento region loves a glass before dinner.

Originating in Veneto, prosecco is a lightly sparkling white wine with a characteristically dry personality that is effervescent without going full blown bubbly. Made with the glera grape variety, it's produced using the Charmat method — which means its sparkle comes from a second fermentation in a steel tank rather than inside the bottle like its competitors from Champagne.

While selection varies across the country, this is one wine style with which it's hard to find a bad example. Piera Martellozzo's Blu Giovello Prosecco ($14.95 - $16.99) is a bone dry version with subtle tropical fruit flavours that make it ideal for hard to match menus like sushi and Thai.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

3 LIFE

Bake-Off

Pumpkin Ravioli wins

Pumpkin Ravioli with Salted Caramel Whipped Cream is the winning dish of the 2012 Pillsbury Bake-Off Contest.

TV host Martha Stewart announced on her show that Christina Verrelli, of Devon, Pa., was the winner. Verelli wins $1 million and $10,000 worth of GE kitchen appliances.

Made with Pillsbury Crescent dough sheets, the recipe can be found on Pillsbury's website, pillsbury.com, along with all the other finalists. All entries in the contest were required to include at least one eligible Pillsbury product.

Three category winners each receive $5,000 cash and $3,000 in appliances.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Tax on Cornish pasties, a regional speciality, opens new front in UK's class war

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4 SPORTS

Jets preview

Winnipeg at Carolina 6 p.m. (TSN-Jets)

The Jets (35-34-8) travel to Carolina (31-31-15). Cam Ward made 32 saves for his fifth shutout of the season as the Hurricanes beat Toronto 3-0 on Tuesday. Jussi Jokinen had a goal and an assist in the win and has seven points in his last five games. Tuomo Ruutu has yet to score in 10 games since returning from an upper-body injury. He has three assists in that span. Justin Faulk has an assist in each of the last three games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Ontario's Glenn Howard says his rink is "still riding a high" after winning the Brier on March 12. He'll try to carry that positive energy to the international stage as the world curling championships get underway this weekend in Switzerland. Scan the code for the story.

Cornerback Jovon Johnson holds his award for the CFL outstanding defensive player in November in Vancouver. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bombers lock up all-star cornerback

Jovon Johnson.
Defensive star signs a one-year deal plus a club option

Despite his off-the-cuff tweets that sometimes irk management, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers have signed all-star cornerback Jovon Johnson to a contract extension.

"We came to a mutual agreement and everything worked out for the best for the both of us," Johnson said on a conference call Thursday.

Johnson, who signed a one-year deal plus a club option, has been known to tweet complaints about management decisions such as the release of running back Fred Reid and about his own contract talks.

"Players make mistakes and I'm a man and I admit that.... It was just one of those things where emotionally I got kind of upset," he said.

"They look forward to me being a leader on this team and I look forward to going out and doing it."

Johnson is entering his fifth season with the Bombers.

He was picked as the league's top defensive player in 2011, the first time ever a defensive back has been selected.

He was a CFL all-star for the second straight season and an East Division all-star for the third straight season.

He's also Winnipeg's primary punt returner and sits fourth on the team's all-time list with 594 yards. Last season he returned two of his league-leading eight interceptions for touchdowns. His career total of six is good enough for third on the CFL all-time list.

Quoted

"We are looking for him to take a larger leadership role this season and are confident he is in a position to do so."

Winnipeg Blue Bombers general manager Joe Mack

"Clearly, Jovon Johnson is one of the marquee players in this league and we are thrilled to lock him down for the foreseeable future," general manager Joe Mack said in announcing the deal.

"His versatility to play special teams in addition to his regular role on defence makes him an even greater asset for us."

He said he's eager to get back on the field where he and the Bombers had so much success last season, up to their Grey Cup loss in Vancouver.

"Defensively, we definitely have the players to get the job done, as long as we go out and play and play fast and start games and start games fast. That was one of our weaknesses last year," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports empire

Flames assume majority stake in Stampeders

The Calgary Flames' sports empire continues to grow.

The NHL team announced Thursday it has increased its stake in the CFL's Stampeders from five per cent to a majority position.

The Flames already have a controlling interest in the Calgary Roughnecks of the National Lacrosse League and own both the Calgary Hitmen of the Western Hockey League and Abbotsford Heat, their American Hockey League farm team.

"I don't think (we're) too big," Flames president Ken King responded to questions about a perceived monopoly.

"Now, in fact, with the addition of this team it's the right size."

The Flames have a six-member ownership group led by chairman Murray Edwards, a billionaire oilman who owns Canadian Natural Resources.

The CFL transaction, subject to league approval, is expected to be finalized in the next few weeks.

King also announced a new five-year contract for John Hufnagel, the Stamps head coach and general manager, perhaps as a way of illustrating that things will not be changing at McMahon Stadium on the football front.

Hufnagel had two years remaining on his current contract but the new deal will kick in this season.

The Stampeders were sold in 2005 by California businessman Michael Feterik to a 12-member group that included former Stampeders players John Forzani, Dave Sapunjis and Bob Viccars, businessman Ted Hellard, and former CFL commissioner Doug Mitchell. Some members of the group have remained anonymous.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Zoo MAIN LEVEL

*The Zoo is now open on Thursdays 6:30pm-12:00am Free Admission

Friday, March 30 - Sixteen Eyes, The Ruined, Mindset Insanity & King Sleeze ... $7 at the door
Saturday, March 31 - Malevolent Hand, Damascus, When Planets Align & Split Lip Grin ... $8 at the door
Thursday, April 5 - Hard Time Killing Floor, Lus+ Boys(BC), Waster & Everyday Feels Like Sunday $7 door
Saturday, April 7 - "COBAIN TRIBUTE IX" Feat. Smash Brothers, Giv'R & Out From The Shadows Adv.tix $8/$10 at the door
Friday, April 13 - "HALWAY TO HALLOWEEN" Feat. K@_BOOM, M.E.L.T. w/ guests. Visiulas by iCandy & k@_boOm! ... $5 with costume/$10 without
Saturday, April 14 - Rattlehead (Megadeth Tribute), Noir & White Trash Heavy Metal ... $10 at the door
Friday, April 20 - "420 PARTY" Tube Screamer Ep Release Party w/ Chris Komus, Select Coda & Theo Tzu $7 at the door
Saturday, April 21 - "JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE AND TIME II" Feat. Illusive Mind Gypsy Crew, Chronobot(SK), Soul Killing Female, Untilted & Cloud Fight ... $5 at the door
Monday, April 23 - Unleash The Archers(BC), Abhorupt, Irreversible & White Trash Heavy Metal
Friday, April 27 - Tyrants Demise, Autaric(SK), Desecrate Scipture & Abhorupt ... $8 at the door
Saturday, April 28 - The Civil Disobedients, Malevolent Hand & Brugada Effect ... $8 at the door
Friday, May 4 - High Class Low Lifes, The Ruffnecks, The Pinkslips, Seal The Deal & Fecal Approach $8 door
Saturday, May 5 - West Of Hell (Feat. The Heathen from Zimmers Hole) w/ guests

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Friday, March 30 - Forged In Fire, Irreversible & Fecal Approach ... $6 at the door
Wednesday, April 4 - 'New Music Wednesdays' MB Music Night. Feat. Misty Street, The Young Pixels, Jelly B And The Kmart Shoppers ... $3 at the door
Saturday, April 7 - 'After Dark' Feat. spEEEdtEEEths(QC), Dj Ezra, Dj Macabria & Dj Razed ... $5 at the door
Wednesday, April 11 - 'New Music Wednesdays' Feat. Diver City, Caught Off Guard(AB) & 1971(ON) ... $3 at the door
Friday, April 13 - Dust Adam Dust, Vampires & Ex Modern Teen ... $5 at the door
Saturday, April 14 - "THE BALL" (Fetish Event)
Wednesday, April 18 - 'New Music Wednesdays' Feat. Elijah w/ guests $3 at the door
Friday, April 20 - "420 METAL" Feat. Psychotic Gardening, Liqurd, Agony Spawn(SK), Abhorupt & Ossific ... $7 at the door
Saturday, April 21 - "UFC 145" Pay-Per-View Feat. Jones vs Evans ... Adv.tix $10/same price at the door.
Wednesday, April 25 - 'New Music Wednesdays' Feat. Lbs. w/ guests $3 at the door
Friday, May 4 - "Back And Forth" Feat. Dj's Premium Plus & Bruce Lord ... $5 at the door
Saturday, May 5 - Nom De Strip(UK), Tyler Crichton, Chris Komus, Xpedite, Beeskneez & Grudge ... Adv.tix $12

FREE PARKING & BEER VENDOR LOCATED IN THE BACK OF THE HOTEL

Montreal Canadiens owner Geoff Molson speaks to reporters Thursday after announcing general manager Pierre Gauthier had been relieved of his duties.
RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Habs fire GM after dismal season

New direction. Team adviser and franchise icon Bob Gainey also leaving his post

The struggling Montreal Canadiens have fired general manager Pierre Gauthier, saying the direction of the storied franchise had to change.

The NHL team announced the Gauthier firing first in a terse statement, ahead of a news conference with owner Geoff Molson.

Bob Gainey, whom Gauthier succeeded as GM, is also leaving his role as a team adviser, Molson told the news conference. Gainey and Gauthier are longtime friends.

Serge Savard, another Habs icon, will serve as an adviser to Molson in the search for a new GM.

Molson praised the Canadiens' fans and spoke about restoring the team to its former glory, pointing to a stockpile of draft picks and promises of acquiring new talent.

"We need to remember that our fans want us to win, period," Molson said. "Our organizational culture is to support and adopt this passion for victory. Nothing else matters."

Gauthier paid the price for a 29-34-14 season that has the Habs languishing in the Eastern Conference basement.

A string of moves this season did not revive the battered Canadiens.

Gauthier fired assistant coach Perry Pearn and then head coach Jacques Martin in mid-December, only to find himself in even hotter water for appointing the unilingual Randy Cunneyworth as interim coach.

With protests from some Quebec nationalist groups and an ongoing controversy in the media, Gauthier elected to apologize and promise there will be a French-speaking coach behind the bench next season.

The Habs have reeled with injuries and sub-par performances. In February, Molson resorted to Twitter to deny rumours during the season that Gauthier too had been axed.

"Rumours of Pierre Gauthier's firing are false," he tweeted.

Rumours had been swirling in local media and online that Gauthier was no longer calling the shots.

Gauthier was named GM and executive vice-president in February 2010, taking over from Gainey. He joined the organization in July 2003 when he was appointed director of professional scouting.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Everyone in this organization, including our players, expected better."

Owner Geoff Molson,
who said the Canadiens' standard is to reach the top, not just make the playoffs

Sports in pictures

1 MLB. A's get even with Mariners

Ichiro Suzuki came up empty in the finale of a two-game trip to Tokyo, and so did the Seattle Mariners. The Japanese star went 0-for-4 in the Mariners' 4-1 loss to the Oakland Athletics on Thursday night that left them with a season-opening split. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 MLB. Young Gose helps Blue Jays steal win from Red Sox

Anthony Gose stole second, third and home to score the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Boston Red Sox 3-2 Thursday to extend their spring-training winning streak to 10.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Figure skating. Moir and Virtue golden once again

Canadians Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir are back on top of the ice-dancing world. The Olympic champions reclaimed their world title on Thursday, edging American rivals and defending champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White in Nice, France.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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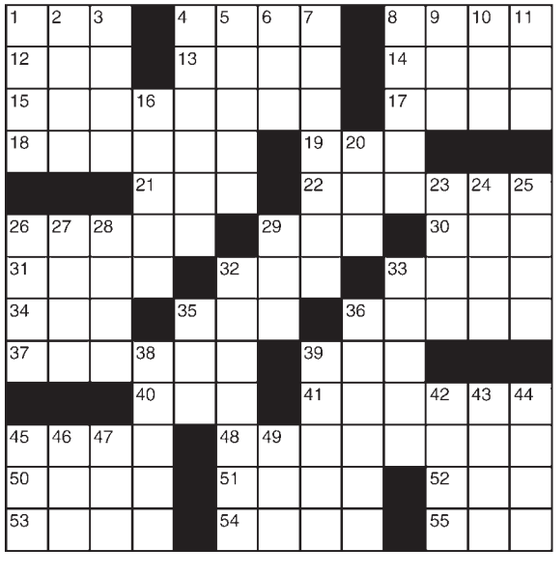
Crossword



Across
1 Suitable
4 Egg part
8 Eccentric
12 Appomattox VIP
13 "Super-food" fruit
14 Met melody
15 Stuff drifting in the ocean
17 Depend (on)
18 Hit
19 Jewel
21 Trawler need
22 Quantum theorist Max
26 Lay out
29 Muppet master Henson
30 Before
31 Vague
32 Swindle
33 Ontario tribe
34 "— Town"
35 Salary
36 Go in search of prey
37 Pluto, once
39 That girl
40 High times
41 Get snug
45 Addict
48 Banana's cousin
50 Bucks' mates
51 Re planes
52 Rest-room, for short
53 Micro-wave, jocularly
54 Is going to
55 Weeps

Down
1 Heidi's range
2 Hide
3 Rend
4 Talked on and on
5 Four pairs
6 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
7 Leader
8 Fate
9 Raw rock
10 Lubricate
11 Band-leader Kyser
16 Fool
20 Shade source
23 Infamous lyrist
24 Team of workers
25 Nautical stabilizer
26 Buy stuff
27 Cohort of Ringo
28 Pound of poetry
29 Bliss
32 Dupe
33 Top of a wave
35 Energy
36 Carbolic acid
38 Hospital employee
39 Tangle
42 Body powder
43 Taleteller
44 Jealousy
45 Grecian vessel
46 Old French coin
47 "A mouse!"
49 Mainlander's memento

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer

G	A	L	A	■	V	I	C	E	■	D	U	D
O	B	I	S	■	A	C	A	I	■	E	N	E
D	E	M	I	T	T	I	N	G	■	M	I	L
S	T	A	T	U	S	■	■	H	A	I	T	I
■	■	■	I	X	■	M	O	T	E	L	■	■
B	E	D	S	■	G	A	P	■	C	L	U	B
I	R	E	■	■	A	Y	E	■	■	E	G	O
G	A	M	E	■	N	B	C	■	A	S	H	Y
■	■	I	M	A	G	E	■	A	L	■	■	■
C	A	J	U	N	■	■	S	I	M	I	A	N
O	N	O	■	D	E	M	I	M	O	O	R	E
N	T	H	■	E	V	A	N	■	S	T	A	T
K	I	N	■	S	E	E	K	■	T	A	M	S

Sudoku

9				6				7
3		8		5		1		4
		6	3		4	8		
1								3
			5		8			
5								2
		1	9		3	7		
6		3		1		4		8
2				8				9

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

1	2	5	7	9	4	6	8	3
4	6	3	8	5	2	9	7	1
7	9	8	6	1	3	4	2	5
6	7	4	9	2	5	1	3	8
3	1	2	4	8	7	5	9	6
5	8	9	1	3	6	7	4	2
9	3	6	5	4	8	2	1	7
2	4	7	3	6	1	8	5	9
8	5	1	2	7	9	3	6	4

Send a kiss

- **My Secret Crush.** You dont have to apologize for being busy at work. God knows it's not about Lattes.. From Just a Guy
- **S bd.** I miss you in my way and I always know and appreciate you love that shakes my heart. It's precious forever... What ever I do what you do all are the privilege from God's gift. From mm
- **Dear Pasta.** I love you in red sauce and I love you in white sauce. Alfredo, and a la Vodka. You make my day when it's dinner time. That's a spicy meat a ball!! From Not a Manja Cake
- **JG.** Its sad that i can't tell how much i like you ? (56) When i see you my Heart beats When people talk about you my Heart beats When i hear your name my Heart beats (Why me?) what kind of feeling is this? Look now my Heart is beating because i am thinking about you. ? I like everything about you And hope you will read the newspaper God give me power to tell him how much i like him. From Your secret crush
- **MX.** I want us to work dont break my heart again I love now & forever. NN

Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: 13° MIN: 4°	MAX: 14° MIN: 7°	MAX: 12° MIN: 3°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You need to make changes and spend less time worrying what other people think of you. Most think highly of you anyway.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You will come out of your shell today and make a good impression on everyone you meet.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. This is an excellent time for new alliances and new beginnings. Change is good for you. The world will smile on you so be yourself.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. If something you are working on seems to be taking up all of your time, that's a sign you should be working on other things.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. A lot of things are happening over which you have no control. Don't worry. You won't sink without trace.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Someone may think they've forced you into a corner but they're mad if they think you will change.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You will find it easier to get along with people you work with on a daily basis, and that's good because you are going to need allies over the next few weeks.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Go all out over the next few days to start something new, something creative, something that you will be remembered for.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Your main need now is to find a space you can call your own. You deserve some peace and quiet for a change.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. If you have not planned anything for the next couple of days then get planning now. Travel and social plans are well starred now.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You'll have to make some tough decisions early next week concerning what you own, what you earn.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Make it a priority to have as much fun as possible over the next 24 hours. Get the most out of life.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Move it! The colonel is coming."
Joel

DAVID BITTON, APPEAL-DEMOCRAT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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